

DECLASSIFIED
SECRET//UK EYES ONLY



SECRETARY OF STATE

MO 6/17/15H

12 April 2003

DG Op Pol

Copy to:
PS/Minister(AF)
PSO/CDS
PS/PUS
Sec/CNS
MA/CGS
PS/CAS
PS/VCDS
MA/DCDS(C)
Policy Director
DGCC
Head of Sec(Iraq)
Head of Sec(O)
Head of Sec(HSF)
Special Advisers

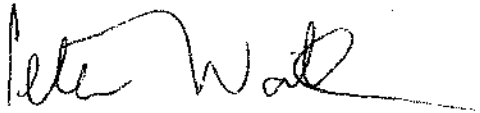
IRAQ: PHASE IV

1. Washington have warned us that the US Defense Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, plans to phone the Secretary of State and the Polish Defence Minister on Monday about Phase IV contributions. He is likely to ask the UK and Poland to head up a division each.
2. This approach is not, of course, entirely unexpected and Mr Hoon will wish to give an encouraging – if not necessarily definitive – response. It would therefore be helpful if the following preparatory work could be set in hand:
 - Informal soundings of the US over the weekend on the likely nature of the request (i.e when, for how long, where?) and how it fits with wider US thinking (total number of divisions?).
 - Initial assumptions on the extent of likely contributions from other countries to a UK-led division.
 - Initial assessment of the feasibility of the task and its implications for other commitments.

DECLASSIFIED
SECRET//UK EYES ONLY

DECLASSIFIED
SECRET UK EYES ONLY

- Any conditions (or counter requests) that we should attach to our taking on this task. (As with the ISAF in Kabul, presumably we would want assurances of support from the US.)
3. There is no need for an exhaustive analysis at this stage. It would be helpful to have some initial views in bullet point format on the areas set out above by **1800 tomorrow**, together with some first thoughts on points to make to Rumsfeld.
4. Mr Hoon would like to have an initial discussion of this issue at his regular update meeting on Monday morning. We had already arranged a meeting on the balance between Operation TELIC (including Phase IV) and other commitments (including Operation FRESCO) for later in the day. We will let you know as soon as Rumsfeld's office makes contact to confirm the timing of the phone call.



P D WATKINS
PS/Secretary of State

DECLASSIFIED
SECRET UK EYES ONLY